

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 50

November 2003

No. 9



Calendar

Sat., Nov. 22	Last Farmer's Market, Penn Place
Thurs., Nov. 27	No trash collection: Thanksgiving
Wed., Dec. 3	Once-a-month yard waste collection day
Fri., Dec. 5	21st Annual Do-It-Yourself Car-ol-fest, Town Hall, 7:30 pm
Sun., Dec. 7	Snow shovellers/babysitter names due (301-933-5764); Last Hazardous Waste collection until spring, Shady Grove Transfer station, 10 am–2 pm
Mon., Dec. 8	Town Council Meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm
Tues., Dec. 9	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm
Sat., Dec. 13	Santa might come to Town Hall, afternoon (TBA)
Wed., Jan. 1	New Year's Day reception, Town Hall, 4–6 pm

Town Council Meeting

The Town Council meeting of November 10 began with a request from the residents of Montrose Avenue north of Strathmore to install a speed hump in the dip of the street going toward Clermont. The Council agreed, and will inquire as to when it can be done. It was announced that there are now two vacancies on the Arboretum Committee (Marian Green and Beth Irons have resigned), and the chair of the Neighborhood Watch (Jane Franklin) is stepping down. (If you would like to serve on either of these committees, call Ted Pratt at the Town Office.) Because of the bad service we are receiving from our trash collection company, the Council is on the lookout for a new contractor. The audit of the town books came back twice without agreement in any of the computations, so the Mayor is looking into getting new auditors. The street light situation is moving along; where fixes are needed, a retrofit will be done after the initial project is complete. Two applications for demolition permits were deferred until reports can come from the Historic Preservation Committee. (Do you really need a permit to demolish one wall so that an addition can be put on to a house?) Drainage problems on upper Kenilworth are still being studied. And finally, the town is in good financial shape—the bills are all paid, and more revenue is coming in than expenditures going out.

Mary Moyer

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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Citizens Association

The past month has been a busy time for the Citizens Association. Many of you attended one or more of our recent events:

Maryland State Issues. On October 29, we hosted a meeting in which our State Delegates (Barve, Gordon, and Simmons) and our State Senator (Forehand) informed us on what was happening in Annapolis.

Halloween. On October 31, Garrett Park children enjoyed a spooky, and sometimes scary, walk through Porcupine Woods. By our estimates, more than 100 residents enjoyed that event.

Garrett Park Issues. On November 13, we hosted a combined event: a security awareness discussion sponsored by Garrett Park Neighborhood Watch and a second Garrett Park issues forum.

Coming Events. Our next event will be the time-honored and always interesting Town Dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your neighbors better and enjoy one another's sense of humor. That event will be scheduled for a Saturday in January, either the 24th or the 31st, at the Town Hall at 6 pm. Details regarding that event will be provided in the December *Bugle*.

The Town Dinner is also the time that Citizens Association officers are elected. At the October 29 meeting, the following candidates were nominated: Jack Mandel (co-president); Matt Stavish (vice president); Laura Krupp (secretary); and Ann Mizoguchi (treasurer). All except Jack are current officers. Gene Brantly, one of our current co-presidents, is in the middle of a two-year term. It is not too late to be considered for an officer position. According to the Association's by-laws, any Garrett Park resident can serve. However, all candidates must be nominated by no later than two days before the Town Dinner. We welcome additional candidates. If you are interested, see a current officer to ensure that you are on the ballot.

Visit Garrett Park's Website:

www.garrettpark.org

GPES News

Part of the school's past was returned this last week at Garrett Park Elementary. Muriell Martin, the daughter of former Principal Joy Duey, sent the school a quilt that was made in 1958 by Gertrude Sutherland's 6th grade class to honor Mrs. Duey on the occasion of her retirement. Each child embroidered a square of the quilt with the flower of a state (only 48 then) and signed his or her name. The quilt has been hung in the library for everyone to see and enjoy. Mrs. Martin also sent along a picture painted by one teacher, Mrs. Ellerbe, of the children playing on the playground. It is now hanging in the front office, and you can tell that it is of a bygone day—all the girls are wearing skirts! If you went to GPES during the '50s, come in and see the quilt and the picture. We have sent along our thanks to Mrs. Martin for thinking of us and returning the items to their place of origin, as they are a part of our history.

Mary Moyer

Green Again!

This month's banner is green courtesy of Gloria Ruby, in honor of her husband Stanley, who died on July 10, 2003. November was his birthday month. We thank her for helping to keep us in funds. Thanks to all who have donated. We are now good through March 2004. Anyone else interested? We can always start the 2004-5 fund. If interested, send \$25 (or \$37 if you want to pay the full cost!) for the green banner printing for one month to Box 98. Remember also, Citizens Association dues are for the 2004 calendar year, and you may have seen people at the Post Office collecting this month. You can beat the rush for 2004 and mail your dues (\$10 per family, or \$5 per individual, per address) to Box 456 if you so desire. Your dues are what pay for this publication and for special events sponsored by the Citizens Association throughout the year, such as the Town Dinner coming up in January (see article, this page). Note that new officers are needed for the coming year. And have a happy Thanksgiving.

Mary Moyer



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The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$10 per family or \$5 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Citizens Association Officers:
Co-presidents: Gene Brantly
Ken Schwartz
Vice president: Matt Stavish
Treasurer: Anne Mizoguchi
Secretary: Laura Krupp

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted to Mary Moyer, Box 98. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Holiday Season Begins

On December 5, the holiday season in Garrett Park will begin with the twenty-first annual Do-It-Yourself Carolfest, to be held at the Town Hall at 7:30 pm. Directed again this year by Sue Numrich, the songs will include a mixture of sacred and secular music. The first half will be geared towards the children, so that after intermission the younger participants can leave, and the serious singers can continue with some harder music. The *Messiah* songs went so well last year that we will attempt to do them again this year. Is this the start of another tradition? Since we do not have enough copies to go around, if anyone has a copy of the entire *Messiah*, please bring it with you so that we can all share and "read" two or three of the chorus numbers. We will be sitting in sections this time, which should help a little more. So bring your voices ready to open the holiday season in rousing song.

Mary Moyer

Jobs List

We need names for the snow shovel and babysitting list for the winter months. If anyone 13 years or older would like to be put on this list, please call 301-933-5764 and leave a name, age, phone number, and what you want to do by December 7.

There were only two responses to our past request, so either these two are going to get a lot of work this year, or else everyone is going to have to shovel themselves out of the snow banks or babysit their own kids. Remember, the sidewalks in front of your house are your responsibility to clean off after a storm so

that pedestrians can walk on them and not in the streets. You have 24 hours after the last snowflake falls to do the work. If any parents are anxious and want to volunteer their children to dig out or babysit, we'll run the list next month. Where is everyone?

From the PO

A belated thanks to all of you for your cooperation with us during the lights out period provided by Hurricane Isabel. A special thanks to Rebecca Shepherd for the use of her power pack, which enabled us to get the mail up, and to Dr. Franz for the use of her battery lamp. The Postal Service provided us with a generator, but we didn't get it until a few days after the power went out. A great big thanks to our staff, Donna Licorish and Maria Ramirez, for doing such a good job in very difficult conditions.

The holidays are upon us. Overseas mail dates are posted in the PO on the bulletin board and at the counter. We have a good supply of holiday stamps and will have packaging products.

Veronica Sauvain, Postmaster

GIVES

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to GIVES. Remember: Envelopes will be mailed with the *Bugle* in January and March 2004 only and not after that date. For those of you who wish to continue contributing, please pick up addressed envelopes in the Garrett Park Post Office, or you can mail to Glenda Ingham, 11308 Rokeby Ave., P.O. Box 258, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Real World vs Preservation

In the October issue of the *Bugle*, Bob Reinhardt wrote about the impending demolition of the house at 10711 Kenilworth Avenue. Unfortunately, Mr. Reinhardt avoided the real issues. In the 38 days the house was on the market, 6,000 real estate agents in Montgomery County had access to the listing; 1,300 neighbors received a postcard advertising the sale. Yet no more than a handful of agents—and even fewer prospective buyers—even considered it. No offer was made, at any price. Why? Because this prefabricated house, built from a kit in the 1950s, is in serious disrepair. (Take a look for yourself at onename.home.comcast.net.) In fact, the land on which the house sits was appraised at four times the value of the structure. Modern updates and energy efficiencies would be prohibitively expensive. No sensible owner would put an addition on a questionable frame.

But there's a larger point: during those weeks the house was on the market, neither the town nor the Garrett Park Historic Preservation Committee expressed any concerns. Perhaps that's because they know an after-the-fact lament is their only remedy. A historic designation would not have made the home livable. A town-wide demolition ban would require preservation of a vacant house that is well past its prime.

Does the house at 10711 Kenilworth Avenue represent a vanishing style of 20th century residential architecture? Perhaps. (As it turns out, there are several other similar kit homes in Garrett Park.) But in a town filled with stunning showplaces, this isn't a structure that any prospective owner found worthy of purchase. Garrett Park should get serious about the real-world approaches to historic presentation that won't diminish property values. Fearing change doesn't solve problems. And some history belongs in history books.

Jeremy Lichtenstein

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Conspiracy in Garrett Park?

For the past two years, I have been a Co-President of the Citizens Association. Previously, I served on the Town Council. In those capacities, I have been modestly surprised by the attitude of a few residents who seem to be under the impression that the town is run by a cabal. The allegation is that there is a small group of people, an in-crowd, who control the town's agenda and are working in concert (and possibly in secret) to control decisions and to hold information closely.

Is there truth in this? I don't believe so, but I can understand why some believe otherwise. The reason is simple—the people who set the town's agenda are those that have chosen to devote their time and energy to the betterment of the town, as they see it. In short, those who have a vision for the town's future tend to establish the agenda. In my view, this is understandable. That is how we got where we are on such projects as Penn Place, town street lighting, and the Strathmore Avenue project. Others may disagree, but I believe that we will be thankful for these projects in the years ahead, just as most residents are now thankful for decisions to preserve Porcupine Woods and acquire Town Hall, controversial decisions made decades ago.

To those who believe that the town is going down the wrong path, or perhaps that tweaks in the path are warranted, the remedy is relatively simple—become an active, positive participant in town affairs. That could mean volunteering to be an officer of the many groups in town, such as the Citizens Association, the Women's Club, the Garrett Park Swimming Pool Association, or the various committees that report to the Town Council. It could even mean running for the Town Council at the next election (May 2004). Too often, these groups need to scramble to get individuals to serve. In order to ensure that our residents are represented well, a diversity of views is desirable. And the best way to ensure diversity is to have contested elections.

In conclusion, I challenge residents to become more involved in town affairs. Attend our meetings and contribute your knowledge and efforts for the betterment of all.

Ken Schwartz

Conservation Trust Tax-Exempt

The Garrett Park Conservation Trust has been approved by the IRS for classification as a 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to "preserve, protect and improve open space and historic resources... in the town of Garrett Park." Please consider sending an end-of-the-year tax-deductible contribution to GPC Trust, Box 258, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Bill Burnett called to say that Shirley Schleter died on November 7 from complications due to lung and heart problems. She and husband John used to live on Strathmore, but had moved to Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, several years ago.
- ♪ Other than participants getting a mite chilled, the Halloween walk seems to have been a success this year. There weren't very many lulls in the evening's entertainment. Next year maybe there could be some chairs to sit on, and a few more adults to do the scaring!
- ♪ Margaret Goldsborough and her sister Susan have opened their own section of an antique shop in Antique Market I at 3762 Howard Avenue (east side of Connecticut Avenue). It's on the second floor, with two access staircases leading up to their business. Parking is usually available in the courtyard at the rear of the building.
- ♪ Rumor 1: Is there any truth to the story going around that someone in our town lay down in front of a tree on Strathmore that she didn't want cut down, and the police came to get her away so that the contractor could do his job? Crossing guard Betty had it from one of the contractors that it happened, but it can't be proven.
- ♪ Rumor 2: A pedestrian was hit trying to cross Strathmore at Montrose the first week of November. The driver hit and ran. If you know who the pedestrian was, please call the Town Office with the particulars.
- ♪ Bugle editor Barbara Collier and husband Jonathan Paul just returned from a couple of weeks in Wales. Over five days, they walked 75 miles along the Glyndŵr Way. One important lesson: 18 miles in one day is too long.
- ♪ An old friend was lost in the high winds on November 13—one of the five 50-year-old pine trees by the entrance to Garrett Park Elementary. It toppled over, narrowly missing the school buses.
- ♪ Lost: A like-new 25-cup coffee pot loaned to someone. Please call Glenda Ingham if you have it.
- ♪ Also, left on the Porcupine Woods trail during the Halloween walk: a child's black hooded sweater with decoration on it. Call 301-933-5764 if you think it belongs to someone in your household.

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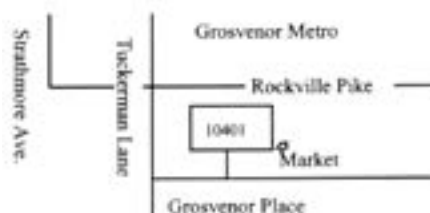
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Letter from the Mayor

Wind, rain, and hurricanes: We have been having our share, and they have been affecting our town. One of the advantages of living in a small town, specifically our small town, is that we have a dedicated staff who rise to the occasion in emergencies. They work together effectively, staying here overnight to be prepared in the morning after Isabel, coming in late in the evening after a tree comes down because of high winds, using their own equipment when the town doesn't have what is necessary, doing what has to be done because the town is important to them.

Our Town Administrator, Ted Pratt, has been with us just over a year now, and he has put together a motivated team that shows initiative, caring, and dedication. When there is a need, Ted, Butch, and Frank are there taking care of it. If the trash truck doesn't pick up someone's trash (a more frequent occurrence than we would desire these days) and if that pickup is very important to a resident, Ted will use his own truck to pick up the trash. Butch will sleep in the Town Hall so that he will be available early the next morning when there is an expected weather emergency. At the end of the day, Frank will take one more trip around town to deliver critical items to Town Councilmembers, or will do some extra mowing

or fix one more item in need of repair, even though his official hours are over.

This only happens when the manager inspires his staff, trusts them to do what is right and necessary, believes that they will do it well, and lets them know how much we value their contribution. It is Ted's leadership, with Laura's able assistance, that allows all this to happen. In a very short time, Ted has not only learned about the foibles of our town and become a friend to many town residents, but he has taken ownership of the role of manager, and, riding his motorcycle around our village, has become a readily recognized and widely cared for member of our community. We are lucky to have the devoted team that supports us in our daily lives, and we are thankful to have Ted's leadership of that team.

As a separate item, I wanted to let you all know that the Town has signed a letter of intent with Barbara and Jeff Black, owners and operators of Addie's on Rockville Pike and Black's Bar and Kitchen in Bethesda, to operate a restaurant and market in the refurbished Penn Place. The Blacks intend to have a restaurant with a style and prices that are consistent the town's needs. Both we and the Blacks are excited to have this opportunity.

Peter Benjamin